

District of Innovation

DCLT and Public Meeting

April 19, 2017



LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Background & Context

- District of Innovation is a concept passed during the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842. HB 1842 gives traditional independent school districts the opportunity to gain flexibility through a variety of available exemptions to the Texas Education Code.
- A school district must adopt an innovation plan in order to access these exemptions.
- School districts may amend/change/extend an innovation plan through the same process utilized to adopt a plan.
- A school district's most recent academic performance rating must be at least acceptable in order to be eligible for designation as a District of Innovation.
- District of Innovation replaces many of the TEA waiver processes.



Across the State

- According to the TEA website, 240 districts have submitted approved District of Innovation plans to the Commissioner. These districts vary in size, geographic location, and exemptions requested. Over 2 million students are served by these districts.
- Plano, Allen, Coppell, Frisco, Denton, Lake Dallas, Richardson, and Grand Prairie are included above.
- Other large districts include: Arlington, Big Spring, Clear Creek, Conroe, El Paso, Humble, Katy, Round Rock, and San Antonio.



LISD District of Innovation Process

- Board passes resolution to begin D of I process March 14, 2016
- Public Hearing on D of I fundamentals April 18, 2016
- Board approves specific committee membership May 16, 2016
- Committee Work/Study/Plan Proposal
- Board Workshop (with 4 Committee members) January 6, 2017
- Board notifies Commissioner of Intent to Vote March 23, 2017
- District Leadership Team presentation/public meeting April 19, 2017
- Plan posted for 30 days on district website March 23, 2017
- Board vote on D of I plan May 15, 2017*
- Plan submission to Commissioner (if Board approved)



LISD District of Innovation Committee Work

- Committee included teachers, campus administrators, district administrators, parents, community representatives (Chamber of Commerce), and board-appointed members.
- All areas of the district and levels of campuses were represented.
- Specific committee membership was approved by the Board in May, 2016.
- 35 total committee members



LISD District of Innovation Committee Work

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| May 25, 2016: | Reviewed legislation, process steps, general information |
| June 8, 2016: | Study of District of Innovation plans available for review (already approved as well as those in their 30 day posting period) |
| Sept. 1, 2016: | Determination of trends found in the 10 plans reviewed |
| Sept. 19, 2016: | District experts speak to key trend topics the committee was interested in learning more about (8 items total) |



LISD District of Innovation Committee Work

Oct. 3, 2016:

Committee determines which possible exemptions they are interested in pursuing. Committee reduces the list from 8 possible exemptions to 5. 100% of meeting participants supported all 5 exemptions if moving forward with a recommendation for D of I status.

Oct. 25, 2016:

Discussion and committee decision on whether or not to pursue recommendation for D of I status – 91% of meeting participants indicated support for committee recommendation that the Board approve the D of I plan. No committee members vetoed the plan.



LISD District of Innovation Committee Work

- Nov. 3, 2016:** Small group (6 volunteers) meet to collaborate on drafting plan language for desired recommendations.
- Feb. 16, 2017:** Committee provided final input on specific plan language. 17 members in attendance with additional input provided through email.



LISD D of I Plan Exemptions

- **Uniform Start Date –**
 - flexibility to start school BEFORE the 4th Monday of August
 - Board must still approve calendar annually based on recommendations from the Academic Calendar Committee and following public feedback on options
- **Minutes of Instruction –**
 - flexibility in how minutes are utilized while maintaining the minimum requirement for the year
 - considerations for ½ day programs (such as PreK)



LISD D of I Plan Exemptions

- **Campus Behavior Coordinator –**
 - exemption from requirement that each campus name a single behavior coordinator
 - allows campus principals to delegate discipline to assistant principals as appropriate
- **Teacher Certification –**
 - limited to CTE and World Languages (non-compliance programs) when quality, certified candidates are not available
 - after required posting period and candidate interviews
 - requires Superintendent Approval



LISD D of I Plan Exemptions

- Probationary Contracts –
 - allowance for second probationary year for experienced teachers new to LISD (the 5 of 8 educators only)
 - collaboration between campus principal and appropriate Human Resources Administrator
 - requires Superintendent approval



Safeguard - Annual Review

- The LISD District of Innovation Plan includes a provision for an annual review.
 - not required by HB 1842 or Commissioner's Rules
 - allows LISD to insure plan continues to meet the needs of district
 - committee equipped to annually review new ideas
- Local plan may be amended, revised, rescinded, or renewed using outlined process
 - committee recommendation
 - DCLT approval (majority)
 - website posting and public meeting
 - board action (2/3 majority)



Pro's and Con's of DoI

- **Pro's**
 - Allows for district flexibility on areas of interest
 - Regain of local control in some areas in which it has been lost over time
 - Join 240 other school districts
- **Con's**
 - Relatively new process (84th Legislative Session) – new territory
 - Uncertainties regarding how Legislature will treat these plans/this group of districts in the future
 - Circumvents process to continue to request changes in some legal requirements (through legislative action)





REAL INNOVATION
LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITY
LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT